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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(use as many sheets as necessary)*

**Complete if Known**

<b>Application Number</b>	09/471,357
<b>Filing Date</b>	December 23, 1999
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Shinji NABESHIMA et al.
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	Unassigned
<b>Examiner Name</b>	Unassigned
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	742406-3

Sheet	1	of	1
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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS


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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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#### OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	2/5/02
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<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

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				Application Number	09/471,357
				Filing Date	December 23, 1999
				First Named Inventor	Shinji NABESHIMA et al.
				Art Unit	2711
Sheet	1	of	1	Examiner Name	
				Attorney Docket Number	742406-3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
VPS		US-6,185,228 B1	02/06/2001	Takashimizu et al.	
		US-			
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		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
VPS		EP 0 849 958 A2	06/24/1998	Europe		

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				Application Number	09/471,357
				Filing Date	12/23/1999
				First Named Inventor	Shinji NABESHIMA et al
				Group Art Unit	2711
Examiner Name	Unassigned				
Attorney Docket Number	742406-3				
Sheet	1	of	1		

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials <sup>*</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
VRS		5,844,595		Blatter et al.	12-01-1998	

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
VRS		EP	0 873 022	A2	Na et al.	10-21-1998		Full

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VRS		European Search Report, Application No. 99310472.8-2202, Mailing Date: August 9, 2002.	

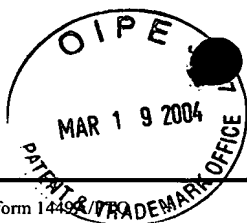
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#9

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>			
				Application Number		09/471,357	
				Filing Date		12/23/1999	
				First Named Inventor		Shinji NABESHIMA et al.	
				Art Unit		2615	
				Examiner Name		Vincent F. Boccio	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		742406-3	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
VPS		WO 97/46007	12/04/1997	Blatter		

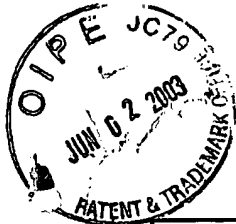
OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
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#6

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/471,357
				Filing Date	December 23, 1999
				First Named Inventor	Shinji NABESHIMA
				Art Unit	2711
Examiner Name	Not yet assigned				
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	742406-3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
VPS		JP 2000-41066	02-08-2000	Kurioka et al.		Full

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

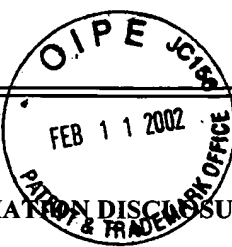
Examiner Signature	<i>Thomas R. Brown</i>	Date Considered	3/29/04
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Atty Docket 2406-0003

Serial No. 09/471,357

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants: Shinji NABESHIMA et al.

Filing Date: December 23, 1999

Group Art Unit: 2711

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
VBS	0 838 820	04/29/1998	EP			Full Eng	
VBS	06-349196	12/22/1994	JP			Eng Abst	
VBS	07-240904	09/12/1995	JP			Eng Abst	
VBS	08-077706	03/22/1996	JP			Eng Abst	
VBS	09-083994	03/28/1997	JP			Eng Abst	
VBS	09-098411	04/08/1997	JP			Eng Abst	
VBS	09-200690	07/31/1997	JP			Eng Abst	
VBS	09-231687	09/05/1997	JP			Eng Abst	
VBS	09-233428	09/05/1997	JP			Eng Abst	
VBS	10-032796	02/03/1998	JP			Eng Abst	
VBS	10-178614	06/03/1998	JP			Eng Abst	

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